

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): Stick-type connected nails comprising:

a plurality of nails in parallel and in an equidistant manner,

connecting bands glued to a shaft portion of each of said nails,

wherein said nails are connected to each other by the connecting bands located at positions ~~substantially near~~ **abutting** an upper end and a lower end of each of said shaft portions,

such that when the stick-type connected nails are superposed adjacent to other stick-type connected nails, the vertical position of respective heads thereof are offset.

Claim 2 (Previously Amended): The stick-type connected nails according to claim 1, wherein said connecting bands are made of paper.

Claim 3 (Previously Amended): The stick-type connected nails according to claim 1, wherein said connecting bands are made of resin.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The stick-type connected nails according to claim 1, wherein said connecting bands are provided on both sides of said shaft portions ~~substantially near~~ **abutting** both said upper end and said lower end of each of said shaft portions.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The stick-type connected nails according to claim 1, wherein said connecting bands are provided on both sides of said shaft portions ~~substantially~~

~~near~~ **abutting** said upper end of each of said shaft portions and on one side of said shaft portions ~~substantially near~~ **abutting** said lower end of each of said shaft portions.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The stick-type connected nails according to claim 1, wherein said connecting bands are provided on one side of said shaft portions ~~substantially near~~ **abutting** both said upper end and said lower end of each of said shaft portions.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The stick-type connected nails according to claim 6, wherein said connecting band is ~~substantially near~~ **abutting** said lower end of each of said shaft portions and glued to surfaces opposite to surfaces to which said connecting band ~~in the vicinity of~~ **at** said upper end of each of said shaft portions is glued.

Claim 8 (Previously Amended): The stick-type connected nails according to claim 1, wherein the lower end of each of said shaft portions of said nails contact the lower end connecting bands of at least one other adjacent stick-type connected nails.